

him up for "American Idol," the singer worried about making it past auditions, never imagining he would earn the "golden ticket" to Hollywood, let alone become a finalist.

But Arthur believed Noah had a special talent, and, after several arduous rounds, he emerged victorious after receiving the most votes out of 16 million cast by fans all across the country. In the process, he brought the "American Idol" camera crew back to Louisa to film a hometown video with community leaders, his family, and thousands of fans. He shined a light on eastern Kentucky, sharing the special culture and history that makes the region such a hotbed for musical talent.

Throughout the contest, Noah radiated humility and warmth. Labeled the "king of 'aw shucks'" by one of the judges, he entered every round of competition with the best of Kentucky's attitude and spirit. Even when Noah caught COVID-19 and had to isolate in his hotel room, he performed cheerfully and continued to win viewers' hearts.

I am proud of Noah for winning this contest and jumping headfirst into what I can only imagine will be a successful musical career. And I am proud of Louisa, KY, for producing such a fine young gentleman to represent the Commonwealth on the national stage. On behalf of the Senate, I share our congratulations with Noah and wish him the best as he pursues his dreams as a recording artist.

TRIBUTE TO CYNDY NOVOTNY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Cyndy Novotny, principal of St. Anthony's Tri-Parish Catholic School in Casper, WY.

This summer, Cyndy Novotny marks her 17th and final year as principal at St. Anthony's School. The present St. Anthony's School building stands as a testament to her 45-year career in education. St. Anthony's Catholic School was dedicated on September 27, 1927, in the belief that education is one of the most important ways that the Catholic Church fulfills its commitment to God.

St. Anthony's School is dedicated to achieving academic excellence in a faith-filled community. Guided by strong religious and educational leadership, Casper students from preschool through eighth grade can learn to live enriched lives committed to Christian service.

Cyndy was instrumental in the design and fundraising for this classic, state-of-the-art building. The school is able to meet students' educational needs while keeping them connected to their faith. Her skills in fundraising also supported student tuition, making Christian education accessible for many families.

Cyndy grew up in the Chicago area, receiving her bachelor of science in elementary education from Illinois State University in 1977. After moving to

Casper, she taught at several schools, including first grade at Southridge Elementary for 7 years and second grade at Sagewood Elementary for another 7 years. While continuing to teach, she earned her master's degree in teaching from Grand Canyon University in 2001.

Cyndy was a leading light in the development of the groundbreaking innovative Woods Learning Center in Casper. Cyndy taught at Woods for 14 years before accepting the principal position at St. Anthony's Tri-Parish Catholic School.

Cyndy is an accomplished academician, educator, and public servant. She worked to enhance educational curriculum and administration as a speaker at the National School Board Annual Convention and International Reading Association Annual Conference. Cyndy is also a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. While teaching, she met her husband, Scott Novotny, a now-retired teacher from Natrona County High School. Together, they have three children, Mick Novotny with wife Dr. Ruma Novotny, Caitlin Dixon with husband Brian Dixon, and Connor Novotny. Cyndy and Scott also have five grandchildren: Ashwin, Colter, Aubrey, Austin, and Jackson.

Cyndy's community involvement is extensive, having been awarded the Natrona County School District Significant Educator three times and the Ellbogen Meritorious Education Award. She was nominated for Disney Teacher of the Year and was twice nominated for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Children across Wyoming and the Nation benefited from her involvement with the National Education Association, National Center of Innovation Conference, Wyoming Reading Association, and Casper Reading Association.

Cyndy's accomplishments and contributions will continue to enrich the education of future generations of students. The community thanks Cyndy for her public service. We recognize her invaluable contribution to the St. Anthony's Tri-Parish Catholic School, Natrona County School District No. 1, and the development of educational curriculum across Wyoming. Cyndy is a pillar of the Casper community.

Cyndy's dedication to her faith is evident through her service as a eucharistic minister, Music Minister, and a member of the Parish Council at St. Patrick's Catholic Church. She exemplifies Christian values and the Code of the West, living each day with courage and taking pride in her work. Cyndy's joy in her work touched the lives of hundreds of children, including my own.

It is with great pleasure that I recognize this outstanding member of our Wyoming community. My wife Bobbi joins me in extending our best wishes to Cyndy Novotny upon her retirement.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WYOMING STOCK GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to honor the 150th anniversary of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. This organization is of incredible historical and influential importance for the State of Wyoming and agriculture everywhere.

From Wednesday, June 8, to Saturday, June 11, 2022, the Wyoming Stock Growers Association will host their annual Wyoming Cattle Industry Convention. They will celebrate their 150th anniversary with a rodeo, banquet, and parade. They will meet in Cheyenne, WY, where they can trace their beginnings back to 1872. There, a group of five cattlemen met in a livery stable to organize a group to tackle the growing threat of stock rustlers. Their organization, then known as the Stock Association of Laramie County, was only the second State cattlemen association in the United States. Wyoming, however, was not yet a State.

Over the years, members included mayors, State legislators, Governors, and congressmen. U.S. Senators Robert D. Carey, John B. Kendrick, and Cliff Hansen all served as presidents of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. My colleague Senator CYNTHIA LUMMIS is an honorary life member.

Every Wyoming student knows of the infamous 1889–1893 Johnson County War involving the Wyoming Stock Growers Association. It required intervention by U.S. cavalry troops sent by President Benjamin Harrison. The conflict has been recounted by numerous personalities ranging from rodeo champion and singer/songwriter Chris LeDoux to the fictional Rooster Cogburn.

Today, you will find members promoting the beef industry through their Young Producers Assembly, Environmental Stewardship Program, Centennial Farm and Ranch Program, and the Endowment Trust.

Local input is essential to the services provided by the Wyoming Stock Growers. On any given week, you will find a county cattlemen group meeting together to bring their issues and priorities to the State association. The Stock Growers' auxiliary, the Cow-Belles, are integral members of their communities and are fantastic promoters of Wyoming's beef industry.

Regional education events bring valuable expertise to the raising of healthy cattle on healthy lands. Information is made widely available through their various publications. The association's staff does an incredible job of serving their membership through educating and promoting their trade to the public.

The Wyoming Stock Growers of 2022 have a remarkable leadership team. Executive director Jim Magagna has led the association since 1998 and is Wyoming beef's greatest advocate. He is joined by Olivia Sanchez and Susan Skinner in their office in Cheyenne.